

NEWW newsletter

7.2

December 2013



Picture above: Last COST-WWIH conference, The Hague. 19 June 2013:
Opening of exhibition Museum of Dutch Literary History. Photo Alfred van Weperen.

COST-WWIH last year...

This NEWW'sletter arriving at the very end of the year also wants to mark the closing of our COST Action "Women Writers in History", which took place at the end of September...

We planned a much quicker reaction and apologize for this letter coming so late, but obviously each of us was completely taken into activities which needed our immediate attention – part of these in fact related to our "Women Writers in History" work and projects for the future. During the last COST-WWIH MC meeting, held in Zürich and organized by Tatiana Crivelli and Caterina Nosdeo, we indeed discussed the ways in which – apart from HERA Travelling Texts and CLARIN COBWWWEB which already started – we will stay connected

and continue collaborating on different scales within the NEWW network. The list of projects and intentions had been sent to the MC members before the meeting. It will be updated and included in the [COST-WWIH Action site](#), which will continue functioning for one more year.

Given the number of these projects and opportunities, we can face the New Year with optimism: there will be lots of occasions to remain in contact, although not always in person. Yet being familiar with each other's research and interests, connecting via e-mail, skype, NEWW'sletter, NEWW-list has become possible.

We again thank COST, rapporteur Leopoldina Fortunati, science officer Rossella Magli and their colleagues, for the opportunity and the support over the four years!

Final COST-WWIH conference

The final COST-WWIH conference entitled [Female authorship in Europe](#) was held in June 2013 at Huygens ING, The Hague. 60 colleagues were participating, many of whom took part in the presentations. In most cases these represented collaborative work, and involved colleagues from different countries, approaching from several perspectives female authorship and a number of research questions related to it.

It was a very inspiring event, allowing all of us to look back to the four years during which we got acquainted and became friends, but also promising a rich future: what we were doing, was in particular also giving things a start and preparing the “real” research – on both levels: content as well as technological infrastructure.

During the conference there was also the opening of two exhibitions. One organized in the Museum of Dutch Literary History presented a number of until now [little known Dutch women](#) authors, not yet included in the Museum’s [Portrait Gallery](#); texts by some of these women were beautifully presented by actress Tessa du Mée. The other, prepared by [Arno Kuipers](#), showed books both *written* by Dutch 19th- and 20th-century women, and *translated* by them from foreign works by women, [from the collections of the KB](#) National Library of the Netherlands.

The next day a visit took place to the Damesleesmuseum (Ladies’ Reading Library) in The Hague: an institution created at the end of the 19th century which played an important role in shaping a Dutch female audience for foreign women authors, in particular from Scandinavia. Their catalogue has been used as evidence concerning [the reception of these authors](#).

In the future collaboration with the three institutions (Museum, KB, Damesleesmuseum) will continue, and is already going on in HERA *Travelling Texts*.

From COST-WWIH to COBWWWEB

As announced last June, the CLARIN-NL financed project entitled [COBWWWEB](#) (Connections Between Women and Writings

within European Borders) has started 1st of June. Colleagues implied are [Anne-Birgitte Ronning](#), [Biljana Dojcinovic](#), [Jenny Bergenmar](#), [Tatiana Crivelli](#) and [Suzan van Dijk](#), from resp. Norway, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland and the Netherlands. Amelia Sanz (Spain) had to abandon the project for organizational reasons.

Principal aim of the project is to adapt the present database structure in which we are working, and to develop a code allowing other online projects in women’s literature to directly connect to the *WomenWriters* database. This development is taking place under the direction of [Gertjan Filarski](#), at Huygens ING, in direct connection with the developers of the other projects: *Female Robinsonades*, *Knjiženstvo*, *Selma Lagerlöf Archive* and *Swedish Literature Bank*, and *Women in Arcadia (1690-1800)*. These projects help testing the code and contributing to the possibility, afterwards, for other projects to also be connected to *WomenWriters*.

Since June 1st two Think-Tank meetings (June The Hague, September Zürich), financed by COST-WWIH, have taken place in which the developers came together in view of discussing with researchers about their needs, testing the possibilities and preparing adaptations needed. Beginning of 2014, there will be further contacts between developers, using Skype.

In the meantime work is being carried out on the content of the database in the context of the HERA TTT project (see below).

From COST-WWIH to HERA TTT

As most of you are aware, we were happy to kick off the HERA Collaborative Research Project *Travelling Texts 1790-1914: The Transnational Reception Of Women’s Writing At The Fringes Of Europe* (TTT) in September 2013. We are very excited to continue in this fashion the collaboration which was started through the COST-WWIH network. The participating colleagues from Finland, The Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia (working on their respective literatures) and the United Kingdom (working on Spanish literature) will research (inter)national 19th-century reception of

women writers. Together with the CLARIN-NL funded COBWWWEB project that was also launched in 2013, *Travelling Texts* will contribute to the next step in the development of the *WomenWriters* database. A Virtual Research Environment (VRE) will be developed, which will allow for better statistical analysis, charting and visualisation of our data.

Since the start of the HERA program *Cultural Encounters*, of which this project is a part, two important meetings have taken place. The first one, in Dubrovnik, was the [official kick-of meeting](#) of the program itself. It was attended by [Henriette Partzsch](#) (HERA TTT project leader), [Marie Nedregotten Sørbo](#) and [Suzan van Dijk](#). It was an interesting occasion to get acquainted with the other projects, some of which will be interesting to collaborate with.

The second one was our [first meeting as TTT](#) participants, including a number of “new” colleagues: assistants to the project and partners (see the program). We came together in the by now familiar context of Chawton Library, having our refreshments in the “old kitchen” and some walks in the wonderful garden. In a way we continued our COST-WWIH discussions and built on them, but we all felt that we now will have the opportunity of carrying out “real” research...

Work in *WomenWriters* database

In order to prepare the *WomenWriters* database for the transition to the new VRE, there is a need to transform what is now mostly qualitative information into more quantitative information. To achieve this, a protocol has been developed (and tested during several COST-WWIH Training Schools) to help standardize all records that are currently in the database.

This process of standardization is already in progress. Since September, [Astrid Kulsdom](#) and [Janouk de Groot](#) have been working as assistants for the TTT project. Their main activity in the past few months has been the standardizing of the [Dutch women writers](#)'s author records. In the coming months, all teams from TTT and COBWWWEB will be asked to standardize their author records as well, so as to facilitate the

transfer of our data from the current database to the new VRE. As the TTT project will also generate many new data as a result of systematic research of large-scale sources, it is important that any new records also follow the final protocol.

Of course we want to involve not just our colleagues from TTT and COBWWWEB, but rather all of you: we hereby invite all former COST-WWIH and present NEWW members to join us in this next step towards the new VRE as well. If you want to help with the standardization of author records for your country or literature, please let us know! The standardization process will be coordinated from The Netherlands; if you would like to receive the final version of the protocol, or if you have any questions about data standardization and working in the database in general, you can contact Janouk de Groot (Janouk.de.Groot@huygens.knaw.nl) or Astrid Kulsdom (Astrid.Kulsdom@huygens.knaw.nl). We hope to hear from all of you!

Creation of a book series WWIH

Over the last months discussion was going on about the creation of a book series as one of the very concrete outcomes of the Action. We are happy to announce that this could indeed be decided: a series entitled “Women Writers in History” has been created at Rodopi publishers Amsterdam/New York.

The series will publish outcomes of collaborative NEWW research, and the Editorial Board invites researchers who would, up to now, not be members of this group to submit proposals for volumes and monographs to be included in the series. Research outcomes to be published here would typically *not* concern individual authors, but would realize large-scale research taking as a starting point, preferably, empirical data concerning the *reception* side of literary communication. Research would focus on the *communication* which had been taking place between these female authors and their (contemporary) readers at home and abroad, and provide insight in the position taken by these women.

Women Writers in History focuses on women authors as a *category* and in particular on the role they were allowed to play in their respective countries, and beyond national borders in the whole of Europe. We expect lots of new data to be discovered that shed new light on this, provided we take as a starting point the contemporary *reception* of these women's writings.

Thanks to important efforts in text digitizing, for instance of the early periodical press and of private correspondences, many of those reception data are becoming available. These data start to be used in order to understand the place female authors should be given in European literary history. The series *Women Writers in History* – created and coordinated by members of the NEWW Network – provides a platform for the outcome of this kind of research.

Members of the Editorial Board are: Nadezhda Alexandrova (Sofia University, Bulgaria), Hilde Hoogenboom (Arizona State University, USA), Amelia Sanz (Complutense University of Madrid, Spain), Suzan van Dijk (Huygens ING, The Hague, Netherlands), Ton van Kalmthout (Huygens ING, The Hague, Netherlands), Kerstin Wiedemann (Université de Lorraine, Nancy, France).

Members of the Advisory Board are the members of the COST-WWIH core group: Vanda Anastacio (Universidade de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal), Viola Capkova (University of Turku, Finland), Marie-Louise Coolahan (NUI Galway, Ireland), Biljana Dojcinovic (Belgrade University, Serbia), Ramona Mihaila (Spiru Haret University, Bucharest, Romania), Katja Mihurko Poniz (Univerza v Nova Gorica, Slovenia), Henriette Partzsch (University of St. Andrews, UK), Marie Nedregotten Sørbø (Volda University College, Norway).

First volume to be published in the series, beginning of 2014, will be the one that contains the proceedings of the [COST-WWIH conference, organized in Madrid November 2010](#) by Amelia Sanz *Women telling Nations*. Other volumes are being prepared – one of these concerns the proceedings of the final COST-WWIH June conference, which is also planned for 2014. Contributors will be also contacted these days.

Closing and reporting

The above news about follow-up to COST-WWIH will be included in the final reporting to be sent to the COST office – the draft version of which has been distributed and discussed in Zürich in September and will now be finalized. COST-WWIH members will receive a copy of it. It will also be included in the [COST-WWIH Action site](#).

New project!

The project *Swedish Women Writers on Export in the 19th century* by our colleagues from the “Gothenburg group” (Yvonne Leffler, Jenny Bergenmar, Gunilla Hermansson, Birgitta Johansson and Åsa Arping) has been granted!

It has just started by a workshop entitled *The transnational 19th century. Reinterpreting literary history from new perspectives of reception and transmission*, held 12-13 December, and in which participated, among others: Biljana Dojcinovic, Amelia Sanz, Ursula Stohler, Zsuzsanna Varga, Lucyna Marzec.

Calls for proposals

The next NEWW conference will take place in Madrid! It will be about: *Intellectual Women: Dissatisfied Modernities*.

The end of the 19th century and the first years of the 20th century are witnesses of a revolution in Europe: scientific and technological advances, new media, oriental spiritual influence, social advances, new aesthetics... A whole revolution in which women had an important role that has not been always recognized. In this conference we will try to explore the deep imprint that intellectual women left in the cultural history of Europe in those years, we will consider how dialogues got established between intellectual women from different countries and how the new and modern female voices proposed other possible modernities.

Continuing the [tradition](#) created within the NEWW network and the COST Action “Women Writers In History”, the Complutense Groups

LEETHI (European Literatures from Texts to Hypermedia) and TEGEP keep on working to make visible the dialogues between European women and to analyse the answers that these dissatisfied women gave to the modernities.

The conference will be organised by [Begoña Regueiro](#) and [Amelia Sanz](#), and held at Complutense University (Madrid) on November 2014, the 13th and 14th.

Proposals can be sent to Begoña Regueiro, who can also provide further information. Please write to: [bregueirosalgado\[at\]edu.ucm.es](mailto:bregueirosalgado[at]edu.ucm.es).

New Horizons: Reassessing Women's Travel Writing, 1660-1900. Chawton House Library, Hampshire, UK 10-12 July, 2014.

“A lady an explorer? A traveller in skirts? The notion's just a trifle too seraphic. Let them stay and mend the ragged shirts; Or mend our ragged shirts; But they mustn't, can't and shan't be geographic!” *Punch magazine*, 1893.

This three-day conference at Chawton House Library, organised in conjunction with Nottingham Trent University's Centre for Travel Writing Studies, invites proposals for papers on all aspects of women's travel writing before 1900. However, it is especially concerned to interrogate the assumed exclusion of women travel writers from contemporary networks of knowledge production and intellectual authority. To this end, we especially welcome papers that explore:

- the extent to which female-authored travelogues were intended and received as contributions to knowledge;
- the forms of knowledge and cultural commentary articulated in women's travel writing;
- the genre's role in the intellectual development of both women writers and women readers (in relation, for example, to language acquisition and other appropriately “feminine” attributes);
- the participation of women travellers in wider intellectual communities and networks;
- the part played by women travellers and travel writers in the emergence of disciplines like geography, sociology and botany.

Papers will be delivered in English, but we welcome contributions relating to non-Anglophone travel writing. Please send proposals to Carl Thompson (carl.thompson@ntu.ac.uk) by the deadline of March 1st 2014.

For any other queries, or to register for the event, please contact either Carl or [Gillian Dow](#), Director of Research at Chawton House Library (g.dow@soton.ac.uk).

GEMELA invites abstracts for its biennial conference to be hosted by the University of Lisbon, in Lisbon, Portugal, on September 8-10, 2014.

The conference will focus on women's cultural production in Medieval and Early Modern Iberia and Colonial Latin America. Papers or sessions that deal with the conference theme of *Tracing Paths* are highly encouraged. The theme can be understood in a literal sense (paths through geographical space or social spaces) as well as in a metaphorical sense (paths that are spiritual, poetic, didactic, literary, scientific, philosophical, etc.). We welcome suggestions for panels, discussion papers and/or workshops on theory, pedagogy, and other related topics. Papers may be delivered in Spanish, English or Portuguese.

Please send half-page abstracts to gemela.lisbon.2014@gmail.com by 1 March 2014. Graduate Students should send an abstract along with a full text (7-10 pages max) and an email of support from a faculty advisor. All presenters must pay 2014 membership dues and the conference registration fee. Graduate student papers will automatically be entered into the Graduate Student Award Competition.

For information, please contact vandaanastacio@mail.telepac.pt.

Members' activities

Recently [Hilde Hoogenboom](#), assistant professor of Russian at Arizona State University, published an article and presented a paper in which she shamelessly promoted the database *WomenWriters* and the COST-WWIH Action:

“Bibliography and National Canons: Women Writers in France, England, Germany, and Russia (1800-2010)” [*Comparative Literature Studies*, 50.2 (May 2013): 314-41] argues that when we examine compilations of women and women writers over the past 600 years comparatively, we can see two things. First, women’s literary history is *transnational*, and second, the heirs of this genre, databases, tend to be *national* and have only begun to address this history as relational, between nations. At Digital Humanities 2013 [Lincoln, Nebraska, July 16-19, 2013], Hoogenboom presented a 10-minute paper, “[Databases in Context](#): Transnational Compilations, and Networks of Women Writers from the Middle Ages to the Present”, on a panel on prosopography, or anthologies of short biographies. The paper presents work on the international reception of compilations of women by bibliographers over six centuries and on the international reception of George Sand, whose reception is extremely well documented in *WomenWriters*, to show that the Russians were even more receptive to Sand than the Germans throughout the nineteenth century.

Of special interest for us on this panel was a presentation by Alison Booth, professor of English at the University of Virginia, of her database of the contents of 930 English-language compilations of women <http://womensbios.lib.virginia.edu/> with a focus on: who is compiled with whom; this project is a collaboration with Worthy Martin, associate professor of Computer Science and Co-Director of the Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities, and UVA’s Scholars’ Lab, directed by Bethany Nowvskie.

John Bradley, King’s College London, presented a paper on possible collaboration on standards in prosopography, which is also of interest to *WomenWriters* as we work on establishing search fields for biographies of women writers in compilations.

Finally, Hoogenboom spoke with program officers for the National Endowment for the Humanities on grants for international collaboration for digital projects with colleagues in COST and *WomenWriters*.

Mónica Bolufer coorganized and chaired a panel “Women Intellectuals” at the conference *Pride and Prejudices: Women Writers and the long Eighteenth Century*, Chawton House Library, 4-6 July 2013.

She was also invited speaker at the International Workshop *Knowing about Mediation: Understanding Communication in Enlightenment Europe*, Magdalene College, University of Cambridge, 15-18 September 2013.

And she participated in the organizing committee and chaired a session in the International seminar: “¿Y ahora qué? Nuevos usos del género biográfico” (What next? New uses of the biographical genre”), of the AEIHM-Asociación Española de Investigación de Historia de las Mujeres (Spanish Society for Women’s History), Madrid, CSIC, 26-27 September 2013.

Marie Nedregotten Sørbø gave a paper at the conference *Pride and Prejudices: Women’s Writing of the long eighteenth century*, Chawton House Library, July 5th. The paper was titled: “A New *Persuasion*: The Discovery of a Nineteenth-Century Translation of Jane Austen”. It was part of a [COST-WWIH session](#) where the two other contributors were Tatiana Crivelli and Ramona Mihaila. Suzan van Dijk chaired the session.

Another paper she gave was titled “The fickleness of literary history: Jane Austen and George Eliot in Norwegian Reception” and was presented at the research seminar *Literature and History: Nordic Angles*, 30-31 May 2013 at Volda University College, with participants from Britain and Norway.

Marie also presented our COST Action as well as the new HERA TTT project in a full-page, illustrated interview in the major regional newspaper *Sunnmørsposten*, June 17th. The title was “Viktige kvinnestemmer” (Important Women’s Voices).

Magdalena Ozarska co-organized, at Jan Kochanowski University, Faculty of Humanities, Department of Modern Languages, a *Cultures and Literatures in Translation* conference,

December 5th – 6th, 2013 in Kielce, Poland. She contributed with a paper entitled: “The European language of flowers in the early Polish novel: the case of Maria Wirtemberska’s *Malvina* (1816)”.

Suzan van Dijk contributed to the same conference with a paper titled “The role of (male and female) translation in constructing female canons (19th century)”. The conference program can still be found at the following web page: <http://www.ujk.edu.pl/ifo/translation-conference/>

Suzan van Dijk and Wolfgang Kaltenbrunner participated in the second World Social Science Forum *Social Transformations and the Digital Age* (Montreal, 15 October 2013) in a panel organized by Smiljana Antonijevic, with papers entitled respectively: “Big Data in European Literary History : Are Scholars Ready ?” and “Transparency Strategies in Digital Scholarship”.

Suzan van Dijk was also given the Award of Honorary Member of the University of Nova Gorica by the Senate of this University. As stated in the judicium, read by Katja Mihurko Poniž, the decision of the Senate was based in particular on Van Dijk’s activities during the COST-WWIH Action, and the creation of the network in which the University of Nova Gorica is also participating actively. The ceremony took place on October 17th on the occasion of the opening of the new academic year.

Recent books by NEWW members

Annette Keilhauer and Lieselotte Steinbrügge (eds.), *Pour une histoire genrée des littératures romanes*. Tübingen, Narr (éditions Lendemains) 2013. The book, which is the outcome of a [conference in Erlangen, 2012](#), presents contributions by: Andrea Grewe, Annette Keilhauer, Rotraud von Kulesa, Ina Schabert, Hendrik Schlieper, Florence Sisask, Lieselotte Steinbrügge et Margarete Zimmermann.

Kerstin Wiedemann and Elisa Müller-Adams (eds.), *Wege aus der Marginalisierung. Geschlecht und Schreibweisen in*

deutschsprachigen Romanen von Frauen 1780-1914. Nancy, Presses Universitaires de Nancy, 2013. This book is the outcome of a [conference held in Nancy, June 2010](#) (see also below).

Recent articles by NEWW members

Mónica Bolufer, “De la cortesía a la urbanidad: Modelos en tension” (From courtesy to politeness: competing models), in José Martínez Millán, Concepción Camarero Bullón and Marcelo Luzzi Traficante (eds.): *La Corte de los Borbones: Crisis del modelo cortesano*. Madrid, Polifemo, 2013, III, p. 1439-1463 (about reception and influence of Mme de Lambert and Abbé de Bellegarde in Spain)

Marie Nedregotten Sørbø, “Discovering an Unknown Austen: *Persuasion* in the Nineteenth Century”, in American journal *Persuasions*, no 34, p. 245-254.

Ton van Kalmthout, “Een leven daar uiterlijk niets van te zeggen valt. De drijfveren van Anna Louisa Geertruida Toussaint”, in Rick Honings and Olf Praamstra (eds.), *Ellendige levens. Nederlandse schrijvers in de negentiende eeuw*. Hilversum, Verloren, 2013, p. 139-147. (“A life of which nothing can be said externally. The incentives of Anna Louisa Geertruida Toussaint”, in *Miserable lives. Dutch writers in the nineteenth century*).

Five of our NEWWs members published articles in Wiedemann & Müller-Adams, *Wege aus der Marginalisierung*:

Kerstin Wiedemann, “Die Einblendung der Frau in die Geschichte: Diskursive Autorisierungsverfahren im historischen Roman *Ste. Roche* (1839) von Henriette von Paalzow”, p. 61-80.

Elisa Müller-Adams, “Raumerfahrung und Identitätskonstruktion in *Ida* von Düringsfelds *Esther* (1852)”, p. 163-190.

Juliana Jovicic, “Kulturelle und soziale Fremde aus der Perspektive einer Reisenden des 19.

Jahrhunderts: aus Talvjs Romanen *Heloise* (1850) und *Die Auswanderer* (1852)”, p. 191-216.

Suzan van Dijk, “Deutsche Schriftstellerinnen in Holland im 19. Jahrhundert”, p. 315-334.

Katja Mihurko Poniž, “Schämen Sie sich nicht, wenn Sie slowenische Marlitt genannt werden!”. Die Rezeption deutschsprachiger Prosaistinnen im slowenischen Kulturleben des 19. Jahrhunderts”, p. 335-356.

Kati Launis published in: *Gothic Topographies: Language, Nation Building and ‘Race’*. Eds. P.M. Mehtonen and Matti Savolainen. (Farnham, Ashgate, 2013) : “From Italy to the Finnish Woods: The Rise of Gothic Fiction in Finland”, p. 169-186 [about Marie Linder and Charlotta Falkman].

Members’ babies

Ivana Pantelic got her second child, a daughter, named Lada, on August 19th. Congratulations!

Question to NEWW members

What about your awareness of the existence of societies and/or writers’ houses or museums dedicated to one or (perhaps) several women authors in your respective countries? (see also NEWWletter 6.3). Information about this can be sent to Henriette Partzsch: hamp2@st-andrews.ac.uk.

The NEWWletters on-line

The online versions of the NEWWletters continue to be available at www.womenwriters.nl (click: NEWWletters). Here hyperlinks direct to the programmes, further information on the researchers, etc.

The NEWW list

If you want to be informed and inform colleagues in the simplest way: use the NEWW electronic list.

Go to:

http://www.womenwriters.nl/index.php/NEWW_List.

This NEWWletter

From now on NEWWletters will be issued *twice* a year. For urgent news you might prefer the NEWW list. When sending messages to be included in the *letter*, please use as subject: “Insert_in_next_NEWWletter”.

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